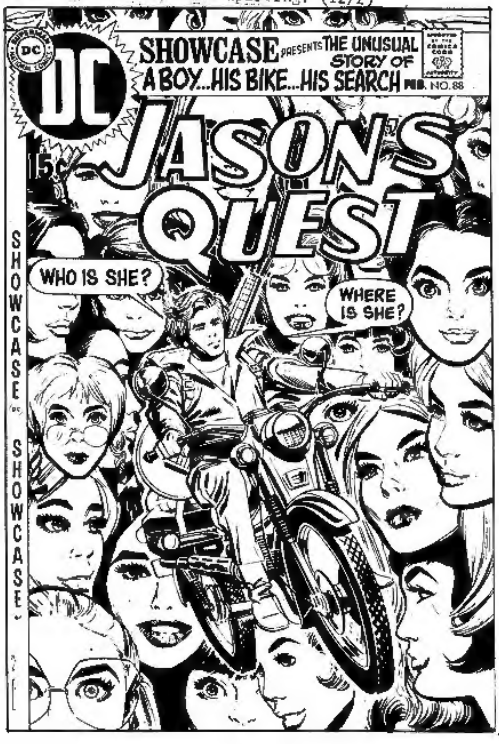
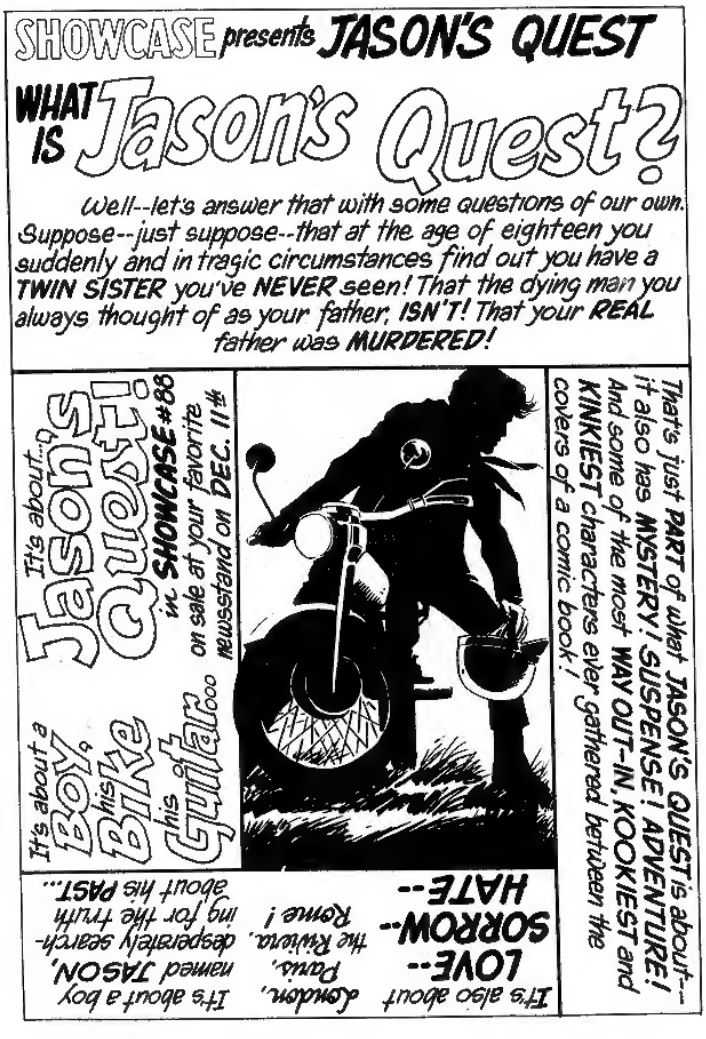
The JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA is a copyrighted title of National Periodical Publications, and is used here through their permission.

OUR ARMY AT WAR (215, Feb) Easy Co. marches to the tune of a different drum when they meet "The Pied Piper of Peril."(12/2)
CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN (No 72, March) There is witchery afoot when the Challengers tackle "A Plague of Darkness." Also in the issue is a short story, with art by Lee Elias, entitled, "Nobody Lives Forever...Or do They?" (12/2)
HOUSE OF SECRETS (No. 84, March) Stories in this issue include: "If I had But World Enough and Time." Script by Len Wein, Pencils by Dick Dillin, Inks by Mike Peppe; "Double or Nothing" with script by Marv Wolfman, art by Sid Greene; "The Unbelievable! The Unexplained!" scripted by Steve Skates, art by Jack Sparling and Jack Abel; "If I should Die Before I Wake..." scripted by Len Wein, drawn by Jack Sparling. (12/2)



SHOWCASE & JASON'S QUEST are copyrighted titles and character of National Periodical Publications, and used here through their permission.

BATMAN (219, Feb) Bruce Wayne becomes involved with politics once again when "Death Casts The Deciding Vote" Credits are: Robbins, Novick & Giordano. The first Christmas tale in years is an offbeat little saga entitled "The Silent Night of the Batman." Script by Mike Friedrich, pencils by Neal Adams, Inks by Dick Giordano. Also in this issue is a short non-Batman reprint tale entitled,"Time to Kill." (12/4)
THE FLASH (No 194, Feb) John Broome lends his hands to a gothic mystery tale illustrated by Andru & Esposito, and entitled, "The Bride Casts Two Shadows." Neal Adams cover on this issue. Short non-Flash reprint this issue is entitled "The Man Who Televised Time." (12/4)
THE UNEXPECTED (No. 117, Mar.) "Midnight Summons the Executioner" for Johnny Peril. Story by George Kashdan, art by Sid Greene. Also encluded in the issue are:"Hands of Death" written by Al Case, and drawn by Jerry Grandenetti; And George Tuska turns in his first art job for National with a story entitled "Death of The Man Who Never Lived." (12/4)
G.I. COMBAT (No 140, March) Jeb Stewart presents an anthology of Tank stories this issue including:"The Last Tank"; "Second-String Soldier"; "Time Bomb Tank"; & "Face of the Enemy." (12/9)
WORLD'S FINEST (no 191, Feb) An "Execution on Krypton" awaits the time and space spanning duo of Superman and Batman in a 20 page saga. Also reprinted in the issue is "The Stone Deaf Robin" from Star Spangled Comics #130. (12/11)
JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA (No 78, Feb) Be on hand with Vigilante and the J.L.A. for "The Coming of the Doomsters!" This is the first of a two part story dealing with pollution of the planet Earth. "The Man Who Hated Science" is a four-page filler story reprinted in the issue. (12/11)
SHOWCASE (no 88, Feb) This issue features "The Beginning" of Jason's Quest. A new strip edited, written and drawn by Mike Sekowsky. Details found directly below. Mike Sekowsky also wrote and drew a new three page filler for this issue entitled "The Ghost Rider." (12/11)


SHOWCASE presents JASON'S QUEST
WHAT IS Jason's Quest?
Well--let's answer that with some questions of our own. Suppose--just suppose--that at the age of eighteen you suddenly and in tragic circumstances find out you have a TWIN SISTER you've NEVER seen! That the dying man you always thought of as your father, ISN'T! That your REAL father was MURDERED!
It's about... Jason's Quest! in SHOWCASE #88 on sale at your favorite newsstand on DEC. 11th
It's about a Boy, his Bike, his Guitar...
That's just PART of what JASON'S QUEST is about--it also has MYSTERY! SUSPENSE! ADVENTURE! And some of the most WAY OUT-IN, KOOKIEST and KINKIEST characters ever gathered between the covers of a comic book!
It's also about LOVE-- SORROW-- HATE--
London, Paris, the Riviera, Rome! It's about a boy named JASON, desperately searching for the truth about his PAST...

THE COMIC READER
No. 75

FROM: THE ACADEMY OF COMIC ART FANS AND COLLECTORS
G.P.O. BOX 449, FLUSHING, N.Y., 11352

To:

first class!

COMIC FANDOM'S OLDEST NEWSZINE

THE COMIC READER is published 8 times a year (approximately every 6½ weeks). The cost of a single copy is 20¢; if ordering more than one issue the price is 15¢ per copy. All copies are mailed via First Class. Overseas orders (in U.S. funds):- Atlantic: 40¢ per copy; Pacific: 50¢ per copy. All overseas copies sent via Air Mail. Published by Mark Hanerfeld.

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Well. TCR is back! Hopefully it will be here to stay on a regular basis.

Issues # 74 & # 75 are being mailed out together in order to save a little on postage, and, primarily, because # 74 contains only the Fanzine Index and the 1968 Alley results, while # 75 is an all news issue. In some cases, people who have ordered only issue # 74 are getting # 75 as well. If these people will be reordering TCR, # 75 will be charged to their accounts.

There seemed to be an excessive amount of lost-in-the-mails copies for issue # 73, so we will no longer be using those dittoed labels. If your copy of # 73 never reached you, let me know as I still have several copies left.

I have two shoeboxes full of unopened letters, most of which are probably inquiries about why TCR ceased publication for a time. So if you've wondered why you never got a reply, I can only beg-off by saying that you're not alone; I've offended just about everyone. I'll try to get around to those letters once these issues have been sent off.

I don't want to forget to thank Marv Wolfman for handling the listings for the DC comics this issue. The best way I can think of to do so is to plug his latest fanzine, a double issue combining Super Adventures # 10 & Stories Of Suspense # 5 in a swan song appearance for both zines. More than 60 dittoed pages for 50¢. The print run this time is smaller than usual, and there are only a limited number of copies left. If you've gotten past issues you know the quality of the material; so you'd better hurry if you want a copy. The address is 142-18 59th Ave., Flushing, N.Y. 11355. Endplug!

TCR # 76 should be in the mails in early December, and it will probably carry the ballot for the 1969 Alley Poll.

Some explanation must be given, I feel, for the sudden and unannounced 6 month absence of TCR. The reasons for it are valid enough; unfortunately, they are very personal reasons; reasons which only I can truly appreciate. I therefore find myself unable to list here any tangible and sufficient explanation of the facts. Suffice it to say, I feel damned guilty about the whole mess, and will try my dammedest not to let the situation arise again.

Helping me stay on the straight and narrow path of fanzine editorship will be the assistance I will be getting from John McGeehan (who has offered to henceforth type up the Fanzine Index to "camera-ready" dimensions), and Marv Wolfman (who will be lending a hand with the typing chores). A big stumbling block in the past has been the fact that I am one of the world's foremost naturally ungifted typists, and this type of aid takes a great deal of pressure off my back.

I also want to thank, in print, all those people who offered their help at the time I was considering turning TCR over to someone more compitent than I. Although it would be a great load off my mind to turn over responsibilities for publishing TCR to someone else, it became clear, after much thought, that I would still have to gather and colate the news, and that involving another person would just slow down the process as it now stands.

Academy Forum

I've got to admit defeat! I have to report that The Academy Of Comic Art Fans And Collectors is once again becoming semi-inactive, at least for the present. The one Academy function that will be continued at present is the conducting of the annual Alley Awards Poll.

This move isn't being taken due to any lack of support from fandom; on the contrary, the support has been most gratifying. However, the fact has made itself abundantly clear that no one man can run an organization that should rightfully be more than just a part-time operation. This is not the end of the Academy, just another temporary setback.

All those members who payed dues for 1969 will have their money applied to TCR subscriptions (unless they write me asking for a refund of their remaining monies). However, this means that there will be a 5¢ or 10¢ excess for each member (depending on the type of membership that person held) which I am hoping you will allow me to keep in the Academy treasury to help defray the costs of running the Alley Poll (if you'd like the nickel or dime returned, just drop me a note and the money will be cheerfully refunded).

Some of the material I had planned for the quarterly Academy magazine will find its way into other fan publications (such as Alter Ego, etc.).

Let me add a final word or two to this section. I think it is high time that the local New York City Metropolitan Area fans became organized to the point where we would be holding local monthly meetings. To this end I have been looking around for a meeting place and have met with no success. Therefore I'd like to ask the aid of the NYC area fans in helping locate a suitable place. The hall should be available one Saturday every month; hold at least 200 people; be near transportation (trains & buses); and be centrally located (Manhattan would be best, but this is not prerequisite). If any of you know of such a place that is available at a reasonable rate, please contact me. Thank you.

ON THE DRAWING BOARD / News Items I Forget When Making Up The Regular Listings Dept.

Kinney National Service, Inc., the conglomorate which owns National Periodical Publications, acquired Warner Brothers - Seven Arts Limited last July. WB - 7A are the people who own the rights to such characters as Bugs Bunny, Porky Pig, Road-runner, Tweety & Sylvester, etc. So, once the current license for comic books based on these characters runs out, National Comics may be handling these titles.

Fan artist Richard Buckler turned pro when he submitted his first penciling to Dick Giordano at National. Rich illustrated a House Of Secrets story called "The Symbionts," from a script by Marv Wolfman. Neal Adams is scheduled to do the inking.

Now, on to the bulk of the news.....

ON THE DRAWING BOARD

NOSTALGIA PRESS

Last issue I gave a schedule for releases from Nostalgia Press; well, forget it. The schedule is now as follows:

Now available is The Phantom at $6.00.

The hardbound Krazy Kat book will be available in November at $ 7.95.

The Popeye and Minute Movies volumes will be published later than planned, unless a large number of orders for them come in immediately.

The two Terry And The Pirates volumes, at $ 7.50 each, are now being prepared and will be released soon.

Nostalgia Comics is scheduled to be a b-monthly magazine which will reprint several old newspaper strips (mostly adventure, some humor). Price of a single issue is $ 5.00; a 6 issue subscription goes for $ 25.00.

Nostalgia now has a catalogue available which will give further information on the publications listed here, as well as several others. The address is: Nostalgia Press, Inc., P.O. Box 293, Franklin Square, N.Y. 11010. (Please don't confuse Nostalgia Press with The Nostalgia Book Club, which will be the publisher of the All In Color For A Dime book. Nostalgia Press does not handle this book!)

Nostalgia Press is interested in corresponding with people who have runs of old comic strips for the purpose of either buying or renting that material for reproduction. They are particularly looking for Scorchy Smith, Dan Dixon, Napoleon, and other rarities of that ilk. Anyone having such material is urged to contact Woody Gelman, at the above address, for terms.

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BOOKS

The Ridiculously Expensive MAD, a wide-ranging collection of material from the first seventeen years of MAD, includes reprints (in full color) of the early Mad Comics satires of Superman, Batman and Wonder Woman, which should be of special interest to fans. The World Publishing Company is the publisher of this $9.95, 256 page mistake.

PEANUTS DEPT.: Holt, Rinehart & Winston have a new $1.00 Peanuts soft-cover, entitled "You've Had It, Charlie Brown," currently available. A paperback edition of "Snoopy and the Red Baron" is now available from Fawcett Books (#T1297, 75¢). "He's Your Dog, Charlie Brown," the newest full-color book drawn from the Peanuts TV specials, will be available from Signet Books (#P4017, 60¢) in October.

Wee Pals (#P3993, 60¢), a Signet Book collection of the Morrie Turner integrated, Peanuts-type newspaper strip, is now available. The volume includes an introduction by Charles Schultz.

B.C. Is Alive And Well! is the latest Johnny Hart book available from Fawcett (#D2117, 50¢).

The first collection of EEK & MEEK strips by Howie Schneider is now available from Paperback Library (#62-104, 50¢). This volume also includes an introduction by Charles Schultz.

Everything's Archie (#F4493, 50¢) is a collection of material from the Archie comics line published by Bantam Books.

Tempo Books has published two new comic strip editions. "Fall Out Laughing, Beetle Bailey" (#5305, 75¢), the second in the series, and "Tiger" (#5312, 60¢) by Bud Blake, which has an introduction by Jerry DeFuccio.

Ace Books has just re-released "Armageddon 2419 A.D." by Philip Francis Nowlan, the novel upon which the Buck Rogers strip was based. The number of the book is 02935, price is 60¢.

The Prisoner #'s 1 & 2, based on the TV series, are now available from Ace. #1 is by Thomas M. Disch (#67900, 60¢); #2 is by David McDaniel (#67901). If you watched the show, you may find these two interpretations "interesting," and totally different from your own.

In January, Ace will publish the twentieth in their series of Man From U.N.C.L.E. novels. I am not sure whether or not this will be The Final Affair, a novel being written by David McDaniel in which all of the U.N.C.L.E. characters are supposedly "killed-off" once and for all, or one of the four British U.N.C.L.E. novels that have yet to be published in the U.S. Let me correct that last statement. There are 4 Man from U.N.C.L.E. & 3 Girl From U.N.C.L.E. books that have been released in Great Britain and not in the U.S.

The long-awaited fourth volume in the Agent Of T.E.R.R.A. series by Larry Maddox, "The Time Gambit," will be published by Ace Books in December.

Bantam's fourth Star Trek book, an original novel by James Blish, is not scheduled for publication before next fall. My guess is that they're hoping N.B.C.'s negotiations with Gene Roddenberry for several, two-hour, movies-for-television episodes of Star Trek will prove successful.

Bantam will continue issuing the Doc Savage novels on a monthly schedule. By the way, they have negotiated a new contract with "Bama," the cover artist on the Doc Savage books, and he will continue in that capacity, contrary to what you read here last issue. According to the company, the repints of the Shadow novels will continue to be released on a quarterly schedule, even though the releases have come out bi-monthly so far.

The monthly releases of the Captain Future novels continue from Popular Library. Out in October is "The Tenth Planet," by Brett Sterling. Due out in November is Edmond Hamilton's "The Magician Of Mars."

Berkley Medallion will begin its issueing of the old Spider pulps in paperback format in November. That month will see the release of # 1 - "The Spider Strikes," and # 2 - "The Wheel Of Death." The G-8 & His Battle Aces pulp reprints will start to be released in April; # 1 -"The Batstaffel" & # 2 - "The Purple Aces." May will be the release date for # 3 -"The Ace Of The White Death." Berkley now has in the stalls "Flame Winds," by Norvell W. Page (#X1741, 60¢), a swords & sorcery novel of Prester John, reprinted from Unknown, circa 1939.

Lancer Books is decreasing its output of swords & sorcery novels. Currently, their newest release is Kavin's World (#74-564, 75¢) by David Mason, which has another great Frazetta cover. The only other S & S release Lancer has scheduled for the rest of this year is "Redbeard," by Michael Resnick. The two remaining Conan books are to be released sometime in 1970.

Dell has published a collection of Robert E. Howard's Bran Mak Morn tales; the book number is 0774, price is 60¢. A paperback collection of Howard's Solomon Kane series will soon be available. The publisher is currently unknown to me.

"Brak The Barbarian Versus The Mark Of The Demons" (Paperback Library #63-184, 60¢) is the third book in John Jakes' Brak series, now on sale. Jakes also has a new sword & sorcery epic out from Signet. "The Last Magicians," (#T3988, 75¢) chronicles the adventures of Cham Helleyes, a new character.

Gardner Fox is alive and well and writing swords and sorcery novels for Belmont Books. The first two books in his series are, "Kothar, Barbarian Swordsman," (#B60-1003, 60¢) and "Kothar Of The Magic Sword" (#B60-1043, 60¢). The latter volume contains several interior illustrations by Ed Robbins, one time artist on the Mike Hammer newspaper strip. Belmont has also issued a Fox civil war novel.

Lancer now has on sale a Swords & Sorcery anthology, "The Mighty Barbarians," (#74-556, 75¢) edited by Hans Stefan Santesson. Aside from having the honor of carrying Jim Steranko's first published book cover, the book also boasts the first publication of new Thongor story. Although I'm not sure of the publisher (I know it will not be Paperback Library), there will be 1 or 2 new Thongor books in the near future, as well as new editions of the first two books in the series that were published by Ace. These reissues will contain previously expurgated portions.

S & S fans should keep an eye out for The Worlds Of Fantasy magazine which will be reinstated on a quarterly schedule starting this Fall. It will be on sale with the science fiction magazines. SF fans should also be happy to hear that Worlds Of Tomorrow will again begin publication, on a quarterly schedule.

Hawaii Five-O #2, "Terror In The Sun," by Michael Avallone is now available from Signet Books (#P3994, 60¢).

Whitman has released eight new Big Little Books. They are: # 28 - Woody Woodpecker; # 29 - Bugs Bunny; # 30 - Tom And Jerry; # 31 - BATMAN; # 32 - Flipper; # 33 - Donald Duck; # 34 - Popeye; # 35 - Flipper.

The Saalfield Publishing Company has released half a dozen "strip books" at 29¢ each. The format is 160 pages; 3 5/8 inches by 8¼ inches, with the binding along the smaller edge; one complete daily strip is printed per page. The first six titles in the series are: Beetle Bailey; Blondie; Popeye; Redeye; Tiger; and Winthrop.

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Jim Steranko is alive and well and painting covers! The jaunty one has turned out several covers for Lancer Books, including a wrap-around cover for The Mighty Barbarians (A S & S anthology now available at your book dealer), and covers for a re-issue of The Dream Makers by Arthur C. Clarke, and Prisoners Of The Sky. John Jakes is also writing a book around a Steranko cover for Lancer.

Jim is doing the covers for the G-8 series from Berkley Medallion (one of the reasons the G-8 books are so late is that Berkley was dissatisfied with the artist who originally did the covers, and handed the assignment to re-do the covers to Jim). He is not doing the covers for The Spider books, but maybe somebody will eventually wise-up. Jim's covers will be appearing on many o° the covers coming from Berkley in the near future.

Jack Wohl has a new newspaper strip called "VERSUS" that is scheduled to start appearing in papers throughout the country the 13th of October. It's an anti-hero type humor strip.

"A Boy Named Charlie Brown," the 90 minute, full-length Peanuts animated cartoon, will be the Christmas show at New York's Radio City Music Hall, and will probably be premiering throughout the country at the same time.

Not many fans are interested in the Archie-type books, right? Well, fans, how about this:- Archie is THE best selling book on the stands, by far! It is the # 1 rated Saturday morning cartoon show! The Archie records are selling extremely well, with "Sugar, Sugar" being the # 1 best seller for the past few weeks! A chain of Archie hamburger stands is going up around the country! The number of Archie liscened products is increasing daily! The newspaper strip is doing better than ever! But fans really aren't interested in the books so they can't be very good, right?!?

There's been another bit of a delay, but, believe it or not, Alter Ego should be in the mails by the end of Oct. or first week in Nov. Price of a single copy is $1.50; the Subscription rate is 5 issues for $5.00. The address is Alter Ego, 305 E. 86th St., Apt. 18-K West. New York. N.Y. 10028. (Please give Zip Code).

I've seen some of the material scheduled for Alter Ego, and it's well worth the price, (an unbiased plug).

GOLD KEY

All of Gold Key's science fiction/adventure oriented magazines have ceased production. Included on this list are: Magnus, Mighty Samson, Mars Patrol/Total War, and Lost In Space.

DELL

Dell continues to publish reprint books and a few new TV or movie tie-in comics. Oct. releases include a new issue of Mod Squad, and number one issues on The New People (with art by Frank Springer), Room 222 (art by Jack Sparling), and The Courtship Of Eddie's Father.

CHARLTON

The Charlton group has published an interesting 25¢ item that in some places is being displayed with the comic books and in other places with the sports magazines. The title of the magazine is Charlton Sport Library PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL, and the premiere edition features the National Football League. The Format of the book is rather odd; it comes off of the standard four color comic book press; however, it contains no strips, but rather typeset blocks of information on the teams and players of the NFL accompanied with drawings of the players (illustrated by Tony Tallarico).

TOWER

In the last issue (way back when) I reported that Tower would be releasing two new THUNDER Agents issues this past summer. Well, you can stop waiting for the other shoe to drop! there was only one reprint issue of the comic, # 20, published this year.

WARREN

Jeff Jones and Vaughn Bodé are collaborating on a number (at least 6, I am lead to believe) of cover paintings for the Warren line. The first of the series will be appearing on Vampirella # 3; another on Vampi # 4. Jim Steranko's first cover for Warren will be the 25th issue of Eerie. A beauty! John Fantuccio (the winner of the 1968 Alley Award for Best Fan Artist) will be doing work for the Warren magazines.

MAJOR

I normally am turned off by the black and white pseudo-comic books that generally are aimed at the horror crowd rather than the comics crowd, and I thought this would be the case with Web Of Horror (issued by the publishers of Cracked magazine). To my surprise, I find my self reccommending here that you give it a try. There seems to be an attempt to produce something other than sheer horror for the sake of horror. The writing in the first issue is passable, in the main, and two of the stories even come close to the standards of the EC science fiction line. For the second issue and beyond, they have hired new writers (including Len Wein, Mike Freidrich, and Marvin Wolfman) and are setting their story standards high. The art in the first issue was so-so; not bad, but hardly inspired either. My sources tell me that the art for the second issue is a good deal better (particularly touted is a SF story called "Breathless!" by Marv Wolfman and Berni Wrightson). The first issue's Jeff Jones cover was not his best, to put it gently; his work on the second cover is supposed to be "a beauty." The first issue has a lousy logo, but I hear that's being fixed. I did find the price more to my taste than paying 50¢ for 44 pages of comic material (Web costs 35¢; has 48 pages; 40 pages of comic art.).

Like I said, I'm generally unimpressed with the horror comics. I am impressed by Web Of Horror. It's worth at least a look.

MARVEL

X-Men # 66, the issue that goes on sale this upcoming Jan., will be the last issue of that title. There are also artist and writer changes for the last three issues: Don Heck is artist on issue # 64; Neal Adams is back on the art chores for # 65, which was dialogued by Denny O'Neil; and Sal Buscema illustrates issue # 66, in which the group battles The Hulk. The last issue of Capt. Savage will be # 19, the issue on sale in Jan. The final issue of Mighty Marvel Western is # 7, the one currently on sale.

John Buscema will return as "perminent" artist on the Avengers book (although there are some completed and semi-completed issues by other artists yet to be scheduled). Jim Steranko, busy turning out paperback book covers, will keep his hand in by doing a story for the Marvel romance books, every three or four months. Bill Everett is currently scripting Sgt. Fury, and will clear up the mystery of Eric's traitorous machinations in a three issue sequence. Gary Friedrich is due back from the west coast, and may be scripting for Marvel again.

There's a bit of activity to report involving the weird/mystery books. Marvel is trying out several writers on these stories, including Alan Brodsky (a Marvel staffer), Gerry Conway, Mike Friedrich, Denny O'Neil, Steve Skates, Len Wein, and Marv Wolfman (The last six, it is interesting to note, also turn out much of the scripting for National's weird/mystery books). Jack Kirby has done at least one story for the mags, and Wally Wood, Gil Kane and Barry Smith each have done stories with a swords & sorcery flavor. Headstone P. Gravely and Digger are being fazed-out as hosts in favor of having either the artist or writer, in caricature, introduce the story.

Here's a miscelaneous jumble of news of forthcoming Marvel epics: Captain Marvel, Nick Fury, and SHIELD all team up for a 21 page Avengers adventure in which the mystery of "Who Is Scorpio?" is finally unraveled. The story needed that extra page because there's enough plot in this one to sink a battleship. Coming up in Dec., is the first part of an Avengers yarn spotlighting The Black Panther, in which the Sons Of The Serpent make their reappearance. This first part was penciled by Frank Giacoia, and the second part handled by Sal Buscema. Also in The Avengers future, Yellowjacket and The Wasp will be taking a temorary leave from the group, and will be replaced by Quicksilver (all decked out in a new costume) and The Scarlet Witch (with revitalised and more clearly defined powers). Daredevil gets to tangle with Nighthawk. Sub-Mariner battles Orka, The Human Killer Whale in a two-parter. Doctor Strange guest-stars in next month's Sub-Mariner, and two months later in The Hulk. The Hulk battles The Rhino, who is under The Leader's orders. Spider-Man and The Silver Surfer are scheduled to have a run-in soon. John Severin has done a fantastic new cover for an upcoming issue of Kid Colt. The interiors, however, will continue reprints.

I feel that I should make some comment of the fact that Marvelmania International, the club which has been advertised in the Marvel mags, has commissioned quite a bit of original artwork from the Marvel Bullpen artists, including Jack Kirby, John Buscema, Marie Severin, John Romita, etc. Of special interest to fans should be several giant Marvel posters executed by Jim Steranko, which will be printed in full color. Mike Royer, an artist most fans associate with Gold Key comics, has also done a bit of work for them, including inking some of the Jack Kirby illos.

NATIONAL--DC

I have been asked to relay the following information to you. Here is a way for fans to not only help the comics industry, but to help themselves in a far more direct manner. If you are having any trouble getting any National titles, DC now has the machinery set up to remedy local distribution problems. If your local outlet carries only certain DC titles and not others, or occassionaly misses several issues, you may help fix the situation by sending Carmine Infantino a letter detailing the specifics of your comics buying trouble. By specifics I mean the specific store(s) or newstand(s) where you purchase your comics, and specifically which titles or issues were not on sale. With this information in writing they can go to the local distributor and possibly rectify the situation. If you'll go through the trouble of writing them, they have the people ready to try and work out the problem.

National has an organization set up handle this specific problem. I don't know if any other company has a similar setup, but if you're having trouble getting their comics a letter to the editor, similar to the one mentioned above, might be of some help in clearing up the situation.

Metal Men # 46 will be the last issue of that title. HOWEVER, the latest sales reports National got on the book showed that it has shot up in sales. If the subsequent issues sell as well, the magazine will be put back into production, post haste! Starting in January, DC will be publishing a new title, HOT WHEELS, a book based on the CBS Saturday morning TV show. Dick Giordano is the editor; script is by Joe Gill; Alex Toth (who designed the characters originally for the Hanna-Barbera cartoons) will handle the art chores for the lead story, while Ric Estrada does the honors for the secondary story. DC has a new science fiction series in the works. The original script was written by Denny O'Neil as a story for a Matt Mason (the boy's doll toy) comic that National had once planned to publish. When that project fell through, the script was updated to become Glenn Merritt, Spaceman. The art is handled by Murphy Anderson, a long-time SF fan, as is Denny. (By the way, Denny has just sold his first SF prose story. It will appear in an anthology edited by David Gerrold — the chap who wrote the "Trouble With Tribles" episode of Star Trek — that will be published by Dell Books in the near future.) Glenn Merritt will appear in either From Beyond The Unknown or Showcase. ((Here's an interesting sidelight to the book: According to Julie Schwartz, the editor, the name Glenn Merritt was derived from John Glenn, and Merritt Island (site of the U.S. moonlaunch base). Murphy insists that the character is named after his brother-in-law, Glen Merritt, who is Commander of a U.S. atomic sub and a science fiction fan to boot. By the way, the real Glen Merritt's executive officer on the sub happens to be Frank Springer's brother-in-law. How's that for coincidence!)) Don Heck and George Tuska are both working for DC. Heck is turning in stories for the weird/mystery books, House Of Secrets in particular. Tuska is doing work for The Unexpected, the romance titles and is taking over art chores for Challengers Of The Unknown (following one issue done by Dick Dillin). Aside from taking over the art on The Flash, Gil Kane is now also doing work in advertising. An ad he did for the Buitoni Company has already appeared in the newspapers. The new policy at DC is that each book will carry at least two stories per issue. This affects books such as Batman, Flash, Superboy, Green Lantern, Challengers, etc.

Deadman will appear in the back of the Aquaman book for three issues, starting with # 50. The Deadman tale will occur simulaneosly with, and be suplimental to the Aquaman story. Deadman will also begin appearing, on a regular basis, as the back feature in the Challengers Of The Unknown magazine, probably starting with issue # 73. Neal Adams will be handling both story and art on the feature, altho Denny O'Neil may be writing the sequences to appear in Challengers. The schedule for teamups with Batman in Brave And Bold, following the Wonder Woman issue, is: Wildcat; The Phantom Stranger; and Adam Strange. There are more changes coming up in The Phantom Stranger. Mike Sekowsky has written and illustrated one issue, after which Jim Aparo is scheduled to take over the art chores. The Viking Prince will appear, in reprints at first, as the back feature in Star Spangled War Stories. The Enemy Ace strip will be reduced to 15 pages. The Losers, a new strip featuring Johnny Cloud, Capt. Storm and Gunner and Sarge, will replace Hunter's Hellcats as lead feature in Our Fighting Forces. The strip was originall called The Born Losers, but was changed because of the close similarity to the title of a newspaper strip. House Of Mystery's Room 13 is the title of a 25¢ reprint book which may be either a House Of Mystery annual, or a independent quartery title. Jason's Quest is the title of the new feature which will be appearing in the next three issues of Showcase. You'll find more about the strip elsewhere in this issue, so I won't duplicate that information here. However, to allay comments that this is a strip derivative of TV's Then Came Bronson, let me say that I personally know that this feature has been "in the drawer" for some time, way before the Bronson show was first aired. The theme of the seventh DC Special is: The Strangest Sports Stories Ever Told.

A new Batman logo is currently being worked up to go with the new look in Batman; and the newest look in Batman involves a change in the storylins (Robin goes off to college, and Batman becomes a solo act; the Batcave and its equiptment is shut down, and Bruce Wayne moves into an apartment in the middle of Gotham; the story emphasis is on the mysterious, creature-of-the-night aspect of The Batman.), and a change in the creative personnel (Denny O'Neil handles much of the scripting; Neal Adams does the artwork for the Detective stories and the secondary stories in the Batman book; Dick Giordano inks all of the Batman strips.). From what I have personally seen of the strip, it comes VERY highly reccommended. Speaking of "new looks"....Green Lantern will be undergoing a facelifting operation at the hands of Denny O'Neil, and perhaps a new artist on the strip. Also, Mr. New Look himself, Green Arrow, will probably be involved in this change of direction for GL. Vigilante returns from limbo to guest-star in an upcoming JLA two-parter, in which the Justice Leaguers combat pollution. It's a rather off-beat menace for super-heroes to fight, but then again the revived Vigilante is rather an off-beat characterization for a hero. You see, he really tries to live up to his name; to take the law into his own hands. By the way, this story also introduces the JLA's new headquarters, an Earth-orbiting satellite. The Teen Titans are undergoing a change. Robin is more or less out of the scene; Hawk & Dove become members of the team; a mysteriously powered girl named Lilith becomes involved with the Titans; and in future issues the Titans will be operating more in civilian clothing, hardly ever employ-their costumes. World's Finest will feature reprints of the old Robin stories on a more or less regular basis. House Of Secrets has several interesting things upcoming: Neal Adams has inked Gil Kane's pencils on a sword & sorcery story, and the results may very well amaze and delight all fandom; Marv Wolfman is writing a semi-regular feature called Abel's Fables, Abel's rather far-out version of nursery rhymes and fairy tales; Len Wein is writing a series of one and two pagers under the overall title "The Day After Doomsday," a collection of last-man-on-Earth tales that run the gamit from hysterical to horrific; Also on the schedule is the world's first funny animal weird-tale and the world's first romance weird-tale. It's all, in the immortal words of Arte Johnson, very interesting. Dick Giordano is using some off-beat material in his two romance titles, Young Love & Secret Hearts. Dark Shadows fans might be interested in the Gothic Horror" stories. There will be full-length stories as well as a series of one pagers entitled "The Adventures Of Penelope Potter," a satire of the love books. And Alex Toth will be doing a new serial that is continued thru both titles, entitled "Twenty Miles To Heartbreak." Maybe now that Marvel's begun issuing Romance titles the fans will pay closer attention to these lines; they might even find something of interest. (End Of Hint!).

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For new readers: The number in parenthesis following a listing indicates the month/day of that issue's realease date.

METAL MEN (No 41, Jan) There is "A Requiem For A Robot" this issue, courtesy of Doc Magnus. (10/16)

THE WITCHING HOUR (No 6, Jan) Prologue and epilogue for this issue was written by Dave Kaler, art by Mike Sekowsky and Dick Giordano. Stories include: "The Doll Man", written by Marv Wolfman, with art by Jose Delbo; "Treasure Hunt," script by Steve Skeates, pencils by John Celardo, inks by Dick Giordano; & "A Face In The Crowd," with story by Gerry Conway, Pencils By Mike Roy, and inking by Mike Peppe. (10/16)

BATMAN (No. 217, Dec) The big change in Batman starts here! Frank Robbins, Irv Novick and Dick Giordano are responsible for "One Bullet Too Many", the start of the Nouveau-New-Look Batman. (10/21)

THE FLASH (No 193, Dec) Be there when "Captain Cold Blows His Cool" over an ex-movie Queen. Heat Wave'll be there, and since John Broome wrote it, and Andru & Esposito did the art work, I suppose they'll also be there. So join the crowd. (10/21)

STAR SPANGLED WAR STORIES (no 148 Jan) When even the non-superstitious Hammer of Hell begins to believe that "Luck is a Puppy", you can bet you've got one hell of a dogfight on your hands. (10/21)

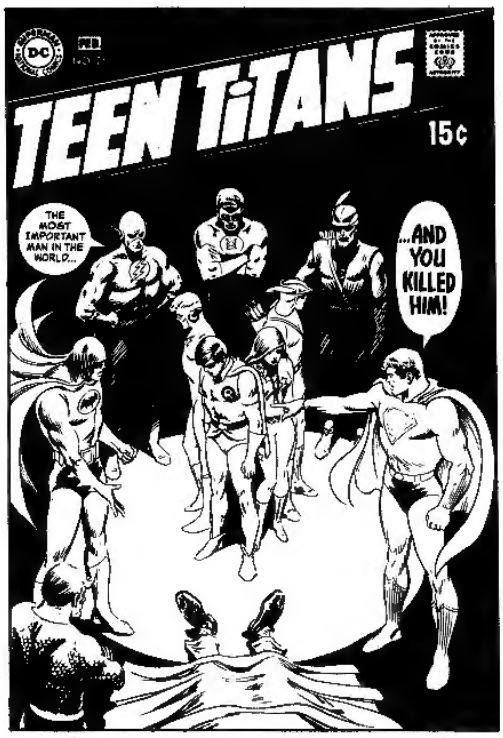
FROM BEYOND THE UNKNOWN (no 2, Jan) Reprints this issue harken back to the early days of Strange Adventures and Mystery In Space for: "Giants of the Cosmic Ray"; "Parade of the Planets; & "Brainmasters of Polaris." (10/23)

THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD (No 87, Jan) Batman and Wonder Woman team up to battle "The Widow-Maker," in a tale scripted and penciled by Mike Sekowsky, and inked by Dick Giordano. (10/23)

WORLD'S FINEST (190, Dec) "The Final Revenge of Luthor" is the conclusion to last issues heart-grabbing story of organ trans-

plantation. Editor's Roundtable reprint this issue features Robin in "Murder on the Chessboard." (10/28)
JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA (no 77 Dec) The J.L.A.'s very own Happy Harbor hippy turns up as, "Snapper Carr, Super Traitor." (10/28)
SHOWCASE (no 87, Dec) A badly mauled Firehair stumbles upon a lost tribe living on the rugged cliffs of the Grand Canyon and comes face to face with the seemingly supernatural powers of "The Shaman." (10/28)
ADVENTURE (No. 387, Dec.) "Lex Luthor's Outlaw Nephew" is the first part of a two-part story featuring Lena Thorul Colby's son as a super-powered menace. Also in this issue is "The Wolfgirl of Stanhope. (10/30)
ACTION (no. 383 Dec) In the first part of a two-part story, Superman battles "The Killer Costume" of one of his foes. The Legion of Super Heroes story spotlights"Chameleon Boy's Secret Identity." (10/30)
DETECTIVE (394, Dec) "A Victim's Victim" continues the new change in Batman by continuing from the last panel in Batman # 217, in a story written by Frank Robbins, penciled by Bob Brown and inked by Joe Giella. The Robin tale is the first half of a two-parter, written by Frank Robbins, with art by Gil Kane and Murphy Anderson, and entitled,"Strike While the Campus is Hot!" (10/30)

OUR ARMY AT WAR (no 214, Jan) Easy Company's newest recruit was a lone wolf who thought he could make it on his own, but he was soon crying" Easy Co.-Where Are You?" (11/4)
TOMAHAWK (no 126, Feb) Tomahawk and his Rangers almost die at the hands of, "The Baron of Gallows Hill." Reprinted in this issue is "The Raid of the Invisible Braves." (11/4)
WONDER WOMAN (no 186, Feb) Diana Prince battles"Morgana, The Witch," in this tongue-in-cheek take-off of the supernatural trend in comics. (11/4)
AQUAMAN (no 49, Feb) "As The Seas Die", Aquaman feels "just terrible" (--- Mel Brooks, 1961). (11/4)
SUPERMAN (no 223, Jan) Okay, you Marvellites, here's your chance to see Superman reduced to only"Half a Hero" (and what are you reading this list for anyway?). (11/6)
HOUSE OF MYSTERY (184, Feb) "Turner's Treasure", the story of a college professor turned fortune hunter is this issue's lead story, written by Jack Oleck and illustrated by Alex Toth. Also in the issue is a sword and sorcery tale, "Eyes Of The Basilisk," scripted by Nelson Bridwell and illustrated by Gil Kane and Wally Wood. (11/6)
OUR FIGHTING FORCES (No. 123, Feb.) Bob Kanigher wrote and Ken Barr illustrated this first installment of "The Born Losers," a series chronicaling the joint adventures of Capt. Johnny Cloud, Capt. Storm, and Gunner and Sarge. (11/11)



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DC SPECIAL is a copyrighted title of National Periodical Publications, and is printed here with their permission.

BATMAN (no 218, Feb) (Giant No. 67) Theme of this giant is the best from Batman's Crime File. Stories this issue include: "Batman and Robin's Greatest Mystery," ; "The Body in the Batcave"; "The Hand from Nowhere"; "The Man Who Couldn't Be Tried Twice; "The League against Batman"; & "Four Hours to Live", a Sunday newspaper strip. (11/11)
LOIS LANE (98, Jan) Superman plays Sampson to Lois' Delilah in, "I Betrayed Superman". Second story in this issue is entitled "Tomorrow, I Die!" (11/13)
PHANTOM STRANGER (no. 5, Feb) The Phantom Stranger finds fun and games in "The Devil's Playground." Script: Bob Kanigher, Art: Mike Sekowsky & Murphy Anderson. (11/13)
TEEN TITANS. (25, Feb) No sooner do the Hawk and the Dove and the mysterious Lilith join the team, than "The Titans Kill A Saint!" Story by Bob Kanigher, art by Nick Cardy. (11/13)
D.C. SPECIAL (no 6, March) Vintage western tales are employed in the story line whose surprize ending we do not want to give away, but would you believe: Cowboys and Rockets?! Script by Len Wein; pencils by Gil Kane; inks by Vince Colletta; edited by Dick Giordano. (11/18)
STRANGE ADVENTURES (no 222, Feb) Denny O'Neil teams up with Gil Kane and Murphy Anderson to bring you a new, untold Adam Strange saga, "Beyond the Wall of Death." Also in this issue: Atomic Knights in:"Thanksgiving Day--1990"; & "Treasure Planet." (11/18)
SUPERBOY (no 152, Jan) The Boy of Steel learns that fooling around with a Phantom Zone projector is a no-no when he becomes "The Super Phantom of Smallville." (11/20)
JERRY LEWIS (no 116, Feb) in "The Abominable Shmoeman" and "The Fortune Haunters."It's a ha-ha. (11/20)
JIMMY OLSEN (126 Feb) Wonder what the moon rocks are really made of? No? Well, read "The Secret of Ultra Kryptonite" anyway. It's good for a ho-ho. And, as if you really care by this point, the other story in this issue is entitled, "Jimmy Olsen, Traitor!" (11/25)
GREEN LANTERN (74, Jan) Part two of the Star Sapphire return engagement is entitled, "Lost in Space." Sinestro also makes his return appearance in this issue. Credits for this issue are,again, Friedrich/Kane/Anderson. (11/25)
DETECTIVE (395, Jan) Return with us now to those thrilling days of Yesteryear as Julius Schwartz, Denny O'Neil, Neal Adams and Dick Giordano present: THE BATMAN (The real BATMAN!) in "Secret of the Waiting Graves. Also, conclusion of last issues Robin tale is entitled, "Drop Out, or Drop Dead!" (11/26)
ACTION (384, Jan) Superman dons "The Forbidden Costume" in this concluding episode to last months tale. There is "A Lament for a Legionaire" when Dream Girl predicts Mon-El's death...and you know her dreams are always right. (11/26)
ADVENTURE (no 388, Jan) Second part of "The Kindergarten Criminal" tale featuring Lex Luthor's nephew is the head-liner this issue. Secondary feature is entitled "The Romance Machine." (11/26)